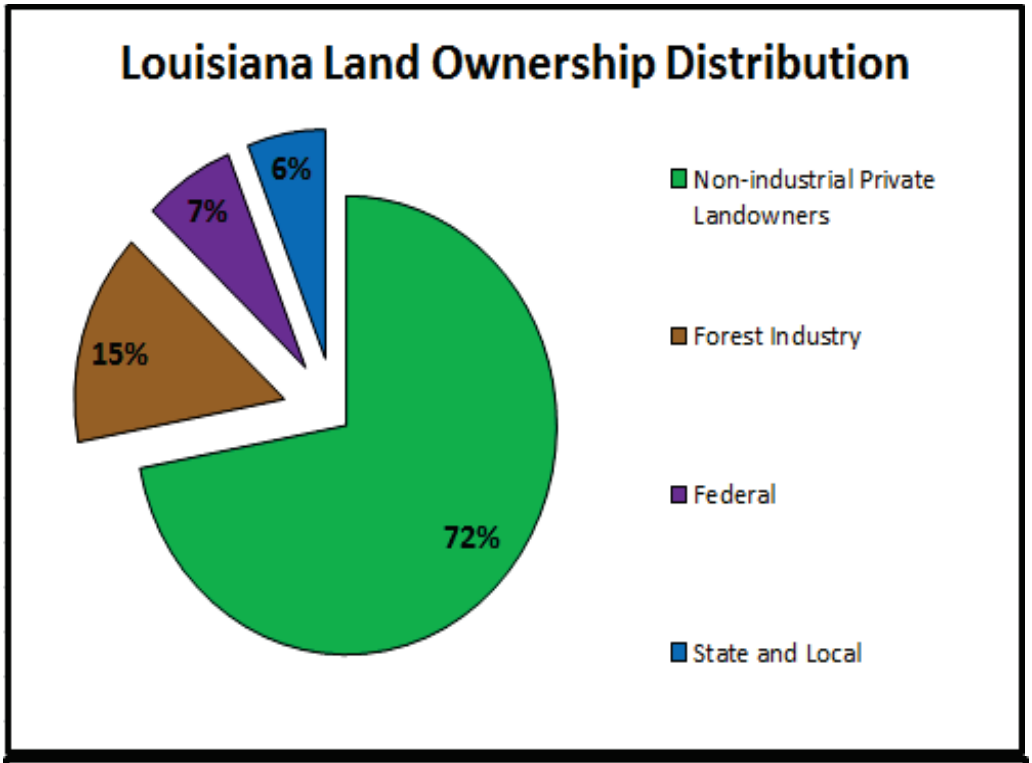
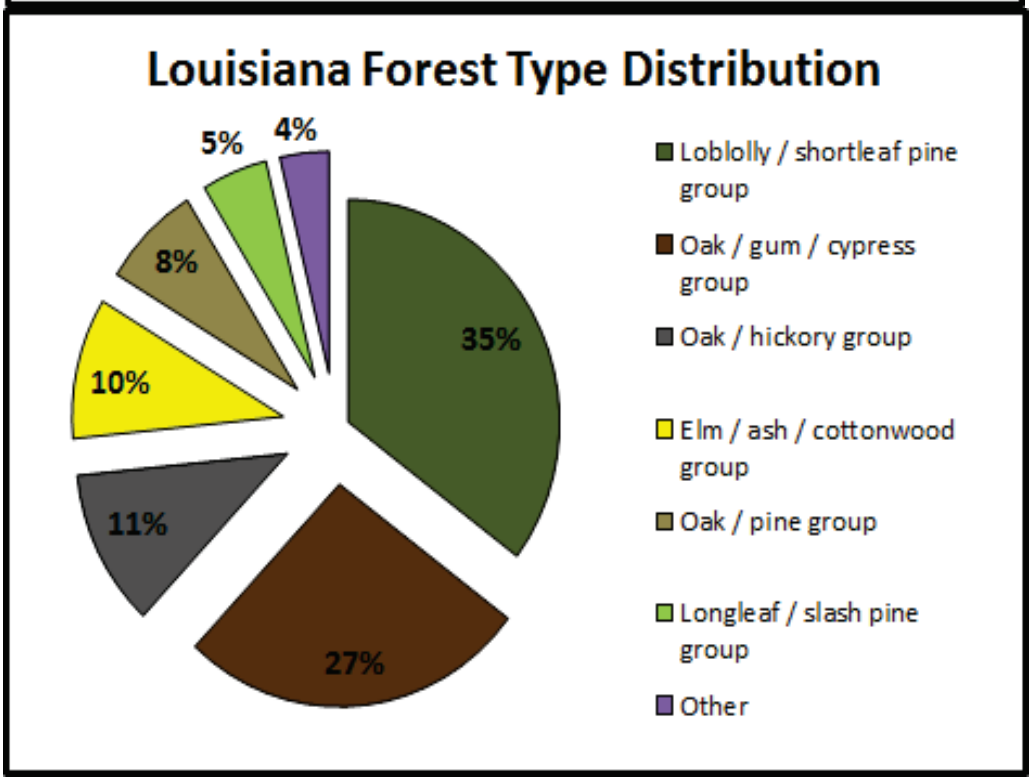
Louisiana

Forest Health Highlights 2019

The Resource

Louisiana's forests cover 15 million acres, nearly half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 10.8 million acres, is in non-industrial private ownership, while approximately 604,000 acres are in national forests. Louisiana's forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat throughout the state. Major forest types in Louisiana include loblolly and shortleaf pine, oak-gum-cypress, oak-hickory, elm-ash-cottonwood, mixed oak-pine, and longleaf and slash pine. Other minor types account for approximately 4% of the forest.



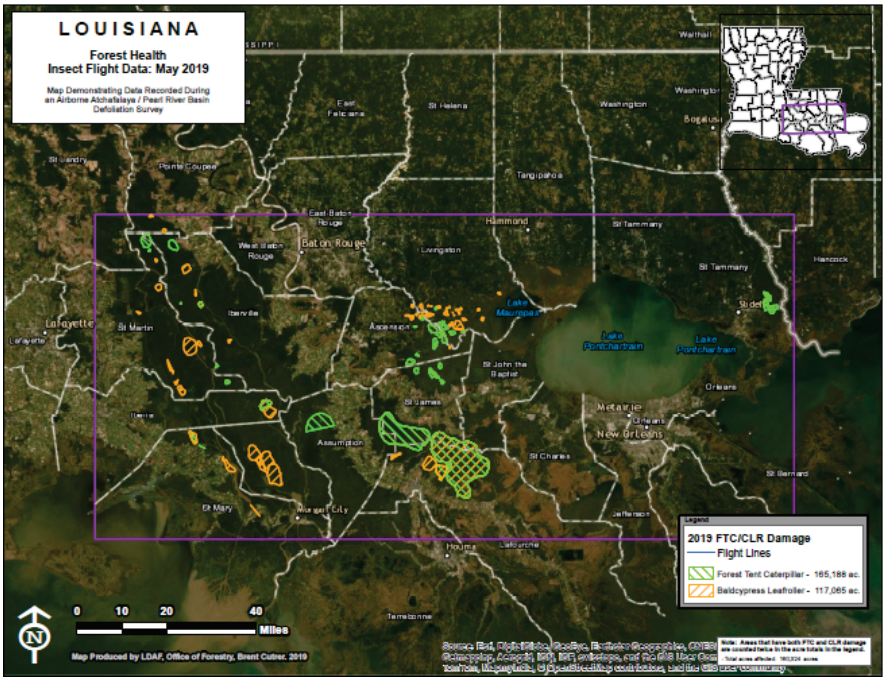


Forest Influences and Programs

Southern pine beetle (SPB) is Louisiana's most significant forest insect pest. However, SPB activity in the state has been insignificant since the late 1990's. In 2018, we recorded 23 SPB spots in the Feliciana's. Our annual spring SPB survey has caught SPB specimens in 2018 and 2019. This past year, we've flown 72 whole survey flights across our state. The Louisiana Office of Forestry continues to monitor and educate landowners on SPB.

Pine engraver beetles (Ips spp.) and the black turpentine beetle remain at relatively normal levels. Because Ips infestations tend to be relatively small and scattered, they usually cannot be effectively controlled or salvaged, but their economic costs may exceed those caused by SPB. We've recorded 80 Ips infestations in 2019.

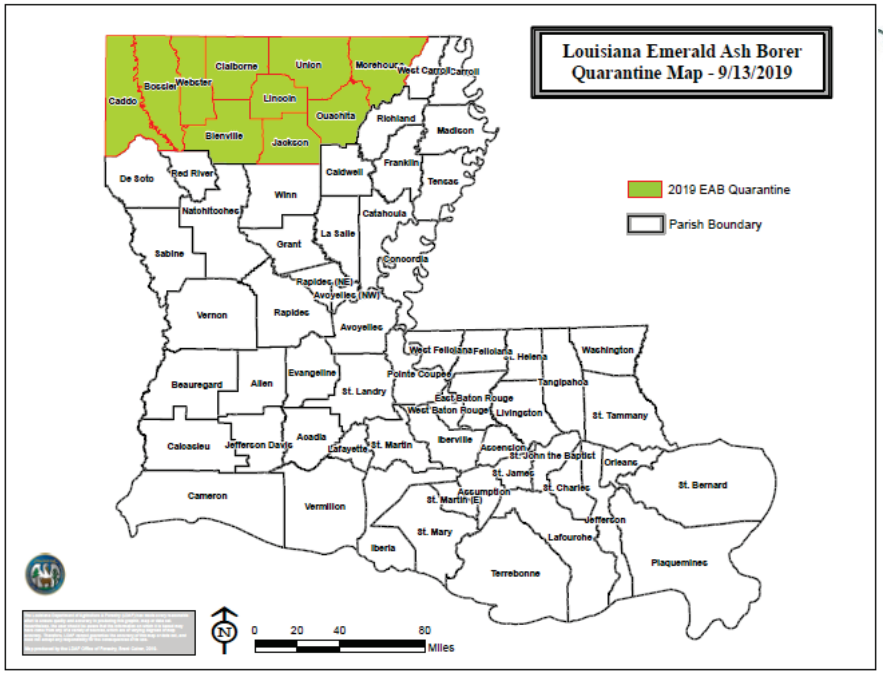
Forest tent caterpillar caused defoliation this spring on about 165,188 acres of tupelo gum wetlands in South Louisiana. Much of the defoliated area was also affected by defoliation due to baldcypress leafroller.


LOUISIANA
Forest Health
Insect Flight Data: May 2019
Map Demonstrating Data Recorded During an Airborne Atchafalaya / Pearl River Basin Defoliation Survey
2019 FTC/CLR Damage
Flight Lines
Forest Tent Caterpillar - 165,188 ac.
Baldcypress Leafroller - 117,065 ac.
0 10 20 40
Miles
Map Produced by LDAF, Office of Forestry, Brent Cutrer, 2019

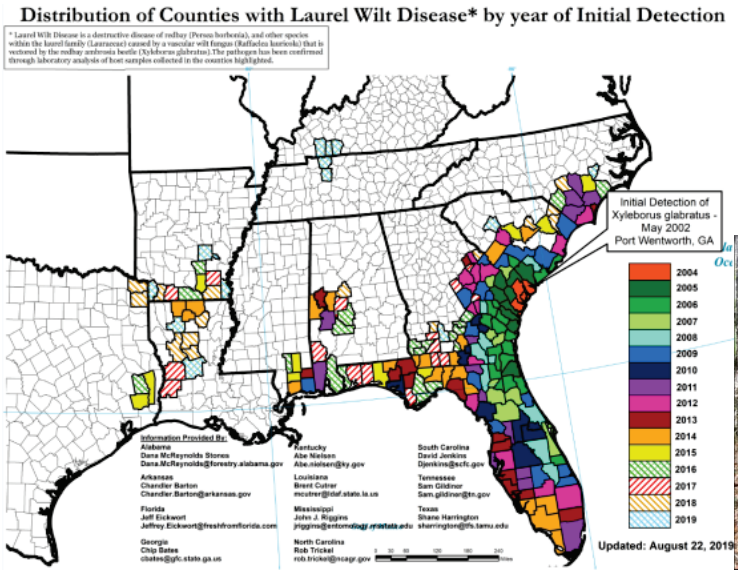
Baldcypress leafroller also caused defoliation on about 117,065 acres of mixed baldcypress stands in southeastern Parishes, mostly associated with forest tent caterpillar defoliated areas.

Gypsy Moth survey was conducted using 189 traps across the state and no gypsy moths were captured.

Emerald Ash borer was first confirmed in Webster Parish in February of 2015. It has since been confirmed in Bossier, Claiborne, Union, Lincoln, Bienville, Jackson, Morehouse, Ouachita, and Caddo Parishes. Our EAB survey didn't record any new infested parishes this past year. We have continued to inform landowners of this pest and have distributed information through press releases and handouts. We continue to coordinate with other agencies to monitor and implement our EAB response plan.

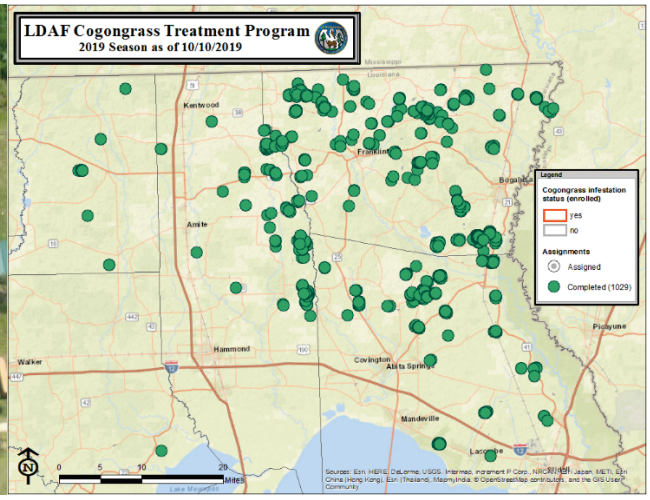


Laurel Wilt Disease and the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle made its introduction into Union Parish, Louisiana in September 2014. The beetle has also been confirmed in Claiborne, Lincoln, Vernon, Beauregard, Grant, Natchitoches, Winn, Ouachita, Bienville, and Rapides Parishes. Bienville and Rapides were added this year. Our foresters continue to observe for declining sassafras and redbay trees caused by laurel wilt.



Cogongrass is a serious invasive species occurring primarily in southeast Louisiana. LDAF has implemented a new Cogongrass Treatment Program that is finishing up its second year. Currently, we've documented 1,430 infestations for 265 acres and have treated 1,107 infestations for 208 acres

this past year. LDAF advertised our program in our department's market bulletin to help spread the word about cogongrass and the new treatment program that we have implemented.



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